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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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R 131630Z MAY 77
FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4576
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, WB
SUBJECT: BERLIN SENAT ELECTED: STOBBE OFF TO GOOD START

REF: USBERLIN 1257

1. SUMMARY: THE 12 MEMBERS OF THE BERLIN SENAT PROPOSED BY GOVERNING MAYOR STOBBE (REFTEL) WERE ELECTED MAY 12. IN GENERAL, THE SPD-FDP COALITIONHAS HELD TOGETHER SOMEWHAT BETTER THAN EXPECTED. THE RELATIVELY SOMMOTH ELECTION OF HIS CHOICES FOR THESENAT REPRESENTS ONE MORE PLUS FOR GOVERNING MAYOR STOBBE AS HE WORKS TO BUILD THE IMAGE OF A LEADER CAPABLE OF MAKING A NEW START FOR THE SPD IN BERLIN POLITCS. IN THE FIRST WEEK SINCE HIS ELECTION STOBBE SEEMS TO HAVE MADE ALL THE RIGHT MOVES AND HAS CONVEYED THE IMAGE OF A MAN IN FULL COMMAND OF THE
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SITUATION. THERE APPEARS TO BE GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT HE HAS HANDLED HIMSELF WELL THUS FAR. END SUMMARY.

2. THE NEW SLATE OF BERLIN SENATORS WAS ELECTED MAY 12 IN A MARATHON FIVE-HOUR BALLOTING SESSION NECESSITATED BY A CDU DEMAND THAT EACH SENATOR BE APPROVED BY INDIVIDUAL SECRET BALLOTS. UNDER THE RULES OF THE HOUSE, A SIMPLE

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MAJORITY IS REQUIRED FOR THE ELECTION OF SENATORS. INVALID VOTES AND ABSENTEES ARE DISREGARDED IN THE COUNT. SEVEN SENATORS RECEIVED 77 YES VOTES OF A POSSIBLE 147. THE WIDEST MARGIN OF VICTORY WENT, SURPRISINGLY, TO ONE OF THE SENAT NEWCOMERS, SENATOR FOR LABOR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS, OLAF SUND, WHO EVEN BENEFITTED FROM ONE CDU ABSENTITON IN WINNING 77-68. AT THE OTHER END OF THE SPECTRUM, RIGHT-WING SENATOR FOR FINANCE RIEBSCHLAEGER WON BY ONLY 74-71, A REFLECTION OF THE ENEMIES HE HAS MADE AMONG HIS FELLOW REPRESENTATIVES.

3. STOBBE'S ACTIVITIES DURING THE PAST WEEK HAVE LEFT MOST OBSERVERS IMPRESSED. THE SELECTIO OF HIS NEW SENAT WAS CARRIED OUT IN DIGNIFIED AND ORDERLY MANNER AND WITH THE STRICTEST SECRECY, NO MEAN ACCOMPLISHMENT IN THIS CITY HALL WELL KNONW FOR ITS LEAKY QUALITIES.

4. THE TEAM WHICH STOBBE PUT TOGETHER HAS BEEN GIVEN GOOD MARKS. THE NEW GOVERNING MAYOR CHOSE THE MEN HE WANTED, AND DID NOT REPEAT SCHUETZ' MISTAKE IN 1975 OF ACCEPTING SOMETIMES LESS THAN FULLY QUALIFIED CANDIDATES IN ORDER TO MOLLIFY THE TWO RIVAL FACTIONS WITHIN HIS PARTY. THE NEW MEN FROM FRG IN THE CABINET ARE CONSIDERED TO BE EXCELLENT. STOBBE'S DECISION TO SPLIT THE FORMER SENAT DEPARTMENT FOR SCIENCE/TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS INTO TWO SEPARATE DOMAINS HAS BEEN JUDGED A SOUND MOVE. BERLIN'S UNIVERSITY PROBLEMS OBVIOUSLY RE-QUIRE THE FULL-TIME ATTENTION OF AN EXPERIENCED
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ADMINISTRATOR/EDUCATOR. STOBBE'S SELECTION OF DR. PETER GLOTZ AS SENATOR FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY BRINGS A MAN TO BERLIN WITH EXPERIENCE AS A VICE PRESIDNET IN A LARGE UNIVERSITY AND WITH PRACTICAL EXPERICNE AS A STATE SECRETARY (FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY) IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. HE IS EXPECTED TO HAMMER AWAY AT PROVIDING COORDINATION FOR BERLIN'S ENORMOUS SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ACTIVITY AND TO LINK IT MORE CLOSELY WITH INDUSTRY. BERLIN'S CULTURAL SCENE DESERVES MORE ATTENTION THAN THE OVERTAXED SENATOR LOEFFLER HAD BEEN ABLE TO GIVE IT; HE WAS COMPLETELY ABSORBED IN UNIVERSITY PROBLEMS.

5.STOBBE HAS ALSO ANNOUNCED HIS INTENTION NOT TO SEEK THE PARTY CHAIRMANSHIP OF THEBERLIN SPD AT THE PARTY CONVENTION IN EARLY JUNE SO AS TO HAVE MORE TIME TO DEVOTE TO BERLIN'S COMMUNAL PROBLEMS. THIS DECISION HAS ALSO BEEN WELL RECEIVED(COMMENT. AT PRESENT FORMER SENATOR GERD LOEFFLER IS GIVEN THE BEST CHANCE

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FOR SUCCEEDING SCHUETZ AS PARTY CHAIRMAN). IN A LIKE
VEIN STOBBE QUIETLY INQUIRED AT A RECENT SENAT
SESSION WHETHER HE IS REQUIRED TO REPLACE SCHUETZ AS
CHAIRMAN OF A NUMBER OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ADVISORY BOARDS
IN BERLIN (E.G., THE BERLINER BAND, THE PUBLIC POWER
COMPANY, ETC). HE WOULD PREFER TO HAVE SUCH EXTRA-
GOVERNMENTAL CHORES TAKEN OVER BY THE RESPONSIBLE SENATORS.

6. COMMENTING ON STOBBE'S ACTIVITIES DURING HIS FIRST
WEEK IN OFFICE, BERLIN CDU CHAIRMAN PETER LORENZ
GRUDGINGLY OBSERVED TO ALLIED SENAT LIAISON OFFICER
THAT THUS FAR STOBBE'S POLTICAL TIMING AND MOVES HAVE
BEEN EXCELLENT. IN ADDITION TO CALLING ON ALL THE APPRO-
PRIATE GROUPS AND PERSONALITIES IN THE CITY, THE GOVERNING
MAYOR HAS MANAGED TO CONVEY THE PICTURE OF AN EFFICIENT
"DOER" IN PUTTING TOGETHER QUICKLY A CREDIBLE CABINET,
WITH NEW AND APPARENTLY RESPECTABLE FACES FROM THE
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FEDERAL REPUBLIC. LORENZ WAS VERY IMPRESSED THAT STOBBE
MANAGED TO KEEP HIS SELECTIONS UNDER WRAPS UNTIL HE WAS
READY TO ANNOUNCE THEM, THUS DENYING THE PRESS AND OPPOSI-
TION TO A CHANCE TO SECOND-GUESS HIM AND STIR UP CONTROVERSY
OVER HIS SELECTIONS BEFORE THEY WERE PRESENTED.

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L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 /071 W
----------140440Z 119339 /11
R 131630Z MAY 77
FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4577
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN
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7. LORENZ CONCEDED THAT STOBBE SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET HIS GOVERNMENT ON ITS FEET AND FUNCTIONING SMOOTHLY WITHOUT A SERIOUS BATTLE WITH THE OPPOSTION CDU. HAVING WORKED QUICKLY AND EFFICIENTLY TO PRESENT HIS CABINET BY MAY 12, STOBBE WAS ALSO ABLE TO COUNT ON HAVING A VERY ROUTINE HOUSEKEEPING SESSION IN THE HOUSE THE SAME DAY. ONLY TWO MORE REGULARLY SCHEDULED HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SESSIONS REMAIN BEFORE THE SUMMER ADJOURNMENT WHICH LASTS FROM JUNE 9 UNTIL MID-AUGUST. DURING THE NEXT HOUSE MEETING (MAY 26) JUST AS EVERYONE IS PREPARING TO LEAVE FOR THE TRADITIONAL LONG PENTECOST VACATION, STOBBE WILL PRESENT HIS GOVERNMENT PROGRAM. LORENZ OBSERVED SOMEWHAT SOURLY THAT THE TIMING OF STOBBE'S GOVERNMENT PROGRAM PRESENTATION MEANS LITTLE OR
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NO ATTENTION WILL BE FOCUSED ON IT EITHER WHEN IT IS PRE-SENTED, OR AT THE LAST HOUSE SESSION ON JUNE 9 SINCE EVERY-ONE WILL THEN BE IN A HURRY TO CONCLUDE THE ROUTINE BUT NECESSARY BUSINESS AND BREAK FOR THE SUMMER.

8. ALTHOUGH MOST BERLIN DGB LEADERS AND FUNCTIONARIES ALIKE HAD MADE NO BONES ABOUT THEIR PREFERENCE FOR A DIFFERENT CANDIDATE FOR GOVERNING MAYOR TO SUCCEED SCHUETZ (DGB CHAIRMAN SICKERT HAD FAVIORED WISCHNEWSKI, WHILE MOST OF THE LOCAL UNION LEADERS AND RANK AND FILE MUCH PREFERRED HARRY RISTOCK), THE DGB EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HAD WORDS OF PRAISE FOR STOBBE FOLLOWING THEIR LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS WITH HIM MAY 3. WHILE STILL SLIGHTLY SKEPTICAL ON A FEW POINTS (STOBBE'S MEMBERSHIP IN THE GERMAN SALARIED EMPLOYEES UNION--DAG--IS GROUNDS ENOQGH FOR SUSPICION ON THE PART OF MANY DGB MEMBERS), A NUMBER OF THOSE WHO HEARD HIM WERE IMPRESSED THAT STOBBE WAS PREPARED TO LISTEN TO THEM AND APPEARED TO GRASP THEIR NEEDS AND CONCERNS. KLAUS SCHUETZ ON THE OTHER HAND HAD LONG SINCE LOST FAVOR WITH THE BERLIN DGB FOR HIS UNWILLINGNESS EVEN TO MEET WITH MAJOR UNION OFFICIALS, LET ALONE DISCUSS PROBLEMS WITH THEM. REPRESENTAITVES OF BERLIN'S CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY WERE ALSO IMPRESSED WITH STOBBE'S PRESENTATION AT THEIR MEETING WITH HIM.

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9. DURING HIS CALL ON THE THREE COMMANDANTS AND

MINISTERS AT THE ALLIED KOMMANDATURA MAY 9 (BELIEVED TO BE THE FIRST TIME A GOVERNING MAYOR HAS CALLED ON THE ASSEMBLED COMMANDANTS AT THE ALLIED KOMMANDATURA), STOBBE IMPRESSED ALL CONCERNED WITH HIS COMMAND OF THE BERLIN SITUATION AND HIS READINESS TO CONTINUE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE ALLIES ON ALL MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE CITY.

10. TWO REPUTABLE BERLIN ACADEMICS WHO SPENT THREE HOURS LAST WEEK DISCUSSING THE FULL RANGE OF INTERNATIONAL,
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POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND COMMUNAL ASPECTS OF THE BERLIN SITUATION WITH STOBBE, AND WHO THEMSELVES ARE EXPERTS ON THE SUBJECT OF BERLIN VIABILITY, HAVE TOLD US THEY WERE EXTREMELY IMPRESSED WITH STOBBE'S GRASP OF THE SITUATION AND HIS UNDERSTANDING FOR WHAT HAS TO BE DONE TO REVITALIZE THE VARIOUS FACETS OF BERLIN LIFE.

11. IN SUM, STOBBE APPEARS CLEARLY TO HAVE WON THE FIRST ROUNDS OF POLITCAL MANEUVERING WITH THE OPPOSTION AND HAS LEFT A WIDE RANGE OF OBSERVERS--ACADEMICS, POLITICIANS, ALLIES AND PRESS ALIKE--WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT HE KNOWS WHAT HE IS DOING. BUT MANY OF BERLIN'S MEN FROM MISSOURI POINT OUT IN THE NEXT BREATH THAT STOBBE WILL BE FACING SOME REALLY HARD-TO-MANAGE PROBLEMS IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD, MAYBE SOME NEW SCANDALS, AND ALL THIS AT A TIME WHEN THE SPD/FDP COLAITION IN BONN IS IN DEEP TROUBLE. GEORGE

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Message Attributes

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